

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3810

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH MEETING ON AEGEAN IN PARIS

CALLED OFF

1. FRENCH NEWS SERVICES REPORTED SEPT. 30 THAT A GREEK-TURKISH CONFERENCE ON AEGEAN ISSUES SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN PARIS SEPT. 25-27 HAD FAILED TO MATERIALIZE BECAUSE GREEKS INSISTED THAT MEETING CONCERN ITSELF ONLY WITH PREPARATION OF TEXT FOR JOINT SUBMISSION OF DIFFERENCES TO INTERNATIONAL COURT AT THE HAGUE.

2. GREEK POL COUNSELOR GEORGIOU OFFERED US SOMEWHAT FULLER EXPLANATION. ACCORDING TO THIS ACCOUNT IDEA OF PARIS MEETING RESULTED FROM SERIES OF GREEK-TURKISH DISCUSSIONS BEGINNING LAST FEBRUARY. IN

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GREEK VIEW IT WAS UNDERSTOOD FROM THE OUTSET THAT

THIS MEETING OF EXPERTS WAS TO BE CHARGED ONLY WITH
THE PREPARATION OF A JOINT SUBMISSION TO THE
INTERNATIONAL COURT AT THE HAGUE OF GREEK-TURKISH
DIFFERENCES OVER SOVEREIGNTY

IN THE AEGEAN. GEORGIU STRESSED THAT THIS IN
ITSELF WAS A MAJOR GREEK CONCESSION TO THE TURKS AND
REFLECTED GREEK WILLINGNESS TO BE CONCILIATORY, SINCE
IN GREEK VIEW AEGEAN SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION DEFINITIVELY
SETTLED IN LAUSANNE AND GENEVA CONVENTIONS. GREEK-
TURKISH DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THIS MEETING ALONG
ABOVE LINES WERE FURTHER REFINED BETWEEN THEIR
FOREIGN MINISTERS IN MAY AND FINALLY CONTINUED IN A
CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE PRIME MINISTERS
AT THE NATO SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS. PRECISE DATE FOR
PARIS MEETING, HOWEVER, WAS SET ONLY RECENTLY, BUT
GEORGIU CLAIMED, WAS NOT RESULT OF GISCARD'S DIS-
CUSSIONS IN GREECE.

3. UNFORTUNATELY, GEORGIU CONTINUED, THE MEETING
BECAME UNSTUCK EVEN BEFORE IT STARTED, WHEN TURKS
PRODUCED DRAFT COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD HAVE
DESCRIBED IT AS A BILATERAL FORUM FOR, IN EFFECT,
OPEN-ENDED DISCUSSION OF GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES
IN THE AEGEAN. GREEKS FOR THEIR PART REITERATED THEIR
UNDERSTANDING OF LIMITED PURPOSE OF MEETING AS
DESCRIBED ABOVE. THIS DIFFERENCE COULD NOT BE
RECONCILED. AS A RESULT AEGEAN ISSUE IS ONCE AGAIN
UP IN AIR. GEORGIU NEVERTHELESS THOUGHT THAT THERE
WAS AT LEAST A CHANCE FOR RENEWED PROGRESS IN THIS
FIELD AFTER THE OCTOBER 12 ELECTIONS IN TURKEY.

4. COMMENT: SINCE WE HAVE NOT HAD DETAILS GREEK-
TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS ON THESE ISSUES WE OFFER ABOVE
FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH, AND DEFER DEPARTMENT AND
AND AMEMBASSIES ANKARA AND ATHENS FOR COMMENT. SINCE
FRENCH ARE CLEARLY INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN GREEK-TURKEY-
CYPRUS FIELD, THE THOUGHT DOES OCCUR TO US THAT IT
MAY NOW BE USEFUL TO PROVIDE US WITH SOMEWHAT GREATER
BACKGROUND THESE ISSUES THAN IN THE PAST.

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